



Sunday January 10th 2021

This Sunday's Service will be available on Sunday, and can be found on our YouTube channel by typing "St. David's Presbyterian Message for January 10, 2021" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Mark 1:4–11

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 am to 2 pm daily, should you wish to drop by. In case of an emergency, he can be reached on his cell phone at 699-3661. Alternately, you may contact your elder. The elder's list is on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer Partnership: The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers a prayer partnership that may form part of a daily devotional, please consider these prayer partnerships:

Sunday, January 10 We thank God for technical tools for worshipping and building community online, and for the people in our churches with the skills to help us use them well.

Monday, January 11 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development programs that bring sanitation aid to countries recovering from flooding.

Tuesday, January 12 We pray for leaders of Canadian churches gathering in the coming days, hosted by the Canadian Council of Churches, to support one another and share the experience of their important and challenging ministries.

Wednesday, January 13 We pray for the work of Cornerstone, an outreach ministry of the Presbytery of Niagara, and its minister, the Rev. Nicole Reid.

Thursday, January 14 We pray for members of the International Affairs Committee as they prepare the committee's report to the 2021 General Assembly.

Friday, January 15 We pray for wisdom and love for congregations supporting family members, friends and neighbours who wrestle with addiction.

Saturday, January 16 We pray for those who live and work in prisons, as well as for those who volunteer and work to bring God's Word of love and grace to these facilities.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Coming to Church: Self Assessment Guide and Sign-in / Sign out Sheet: The Streamlined Process

St. David's has a process for completing our Self Assessment Guide (SAG) and the sign-in procedure for Sunday's church service. The manager on duty will ask you the questions on our SAG and will complete it for you. They will also complete the sign-in sheet allowing you to proceed directly into the sanctuary if all is well. The manager will also complete the sign-out sheets allowing you to leave in an orderly manner.

The sign-in and sign-out form is to allow contact tracing, should we ever need to do so. If you are a member of the congregation, we only need your name and phone number. If you are not a member, you will also be asked for your address.

Sunday January 10th Service

This Sunday we will continue to follow the process described above for the completion of the SAG and the sign-in sheets. We will again have people enter through the breezeway and come in through the side narthex door or the front door. The person or the "bubble" will be seated. The exit plan is to leave via the door to the lobby and out through the tower door. There will be managers and elders to greet you and if you are new to the process, they will help you through it.

We are including singing as part of the service and are adhering to all provincial public health guidelines. Please remain seated and wear your mask while singing.

Meanwhile, people have been asking whether we still provide **“Wheels to Worship”**? And the answer is **“Yes!”**. If you need a ride to church, please call Newfound Cabs (744-4444).

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin and the Sunday service are placed on our website as soon as the Rollmann family get Monica’s email. The website is **stdavids.nf.ca** and if you type this in as your search, our website will be right there. At the top of the main page is a “Sunday Service” which will take you to this week’s service link and bulletin. Since our Sunday services are now live-streamed, the link is already posted so people can experience the Sunday service at home live beginning at 11 am on Sunday. If you click on Video Service for Jan 3rd now, you will see the screen and the note: live in “a number” of hours. After the fact, you can see the You-tube video of the service. If you would like to catch up on previous services all are available, simply scroll through the services and choose the Sunday service or bulletin that you would like to see or read.

Public Health Guidelines

This statement comes directly from the Public Health guidelines: “While not a requirement, Public Health maintains their warning to people 60 and above, or with additional risk factors, to avoid any non-essential gathering.” We feel duty bound to openly communicate this statement. We will certainly welcome and include anyone wishing to join us in person for worship. Meanwhile, we will continue to offer on-line services for those who may prefer that option. Everyone should feel comfortable participating in or engaging in any activity in which they take part. Do not feel compelled to participate, nor be barred from participating, by virtue of age or underlying medical condition. Every precaution to meet and exceed the Public Health

guidelines will be taken. However, that is not a guarantee that we can make our gathering a risk-free activity. We all look forward to a day when this Public Service warning is no longer required. We would like to thank you for your co-operation in helping us ensure we are all protected.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you all who are continuing to donate to your church through envelopes on Sunday mornings, by e-transfers, or by your monthly PAD contributions. My thanks go out to elders and friends who happily and gladly pick up envelopes from those not able to get out to church and drop them off at the church office.

By the way, the sole email address we are using to accept donations is stdavidsnfld@gmail.com and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.

Announcements

AMS

The AMS will be holding its first monthly meeting of the New Year next Sunday, January 17th after the worship service. Come and join them as all are welcome and they would love to see you!

Muffin Making

Our next Muffin Making Monday for Bridges to Hope will be Monday, January 18, if you are interested in helping that morning, please call the office 722-2382, 9-1 Monday to Friday.

Bridges to Hope

Non-perishable food items are being accepted at BRIDGES TO HOPE once again! Your help is needed, so as you return to weekly worship at St. David's, remember to bring in your food items for the trolley. Below is a list of the items most needed:

Canned Beans	Mac and Cheese
Canned meats (Meatballs, Beef Ravioli, etc.)	
Canned Milk	Tins of Fruit and Vegetables
Tins of Soup	1 l Juice
Pasta Sauce	Cereal

Cash donations are always acceptable, and very much appreciated.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday greetings to Alexander Bassler who will be celebrating his 8th birthday on January 14th. Alexander is the son of Sarah and Paul Bassler, brother of Timothy and Julia, and grandson of Gerhard Bassler. Best wishes Alexander for a great birthday spent with family and friends and Happy Birthday from your St. David's family!

Happy Birthday to Jayce Froude who will be 5 years old on January 12th! A big day for sure and celebrating with him will be mom, Karen, siblings, Madelyn and Drayton and of course proud grandparents, Sue and Ken Templeton. Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled birthday Jayce! All our love.

If you know of someone who is going to have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming days or weeks, please call or email the church.

News from the Pews

This past week, I shared a wonderful afternoon with Sheena Findlay – chatting and enjoying a cup of tea and some homemade goodies. Sheena has a sweet home – so cozy and inviting – with a beautiful backyard that is home to many feathered friends and a studio with lots of natural light - perfect for painting! In case you didn't know, Sheena is quite an accomplished artist.

The conversation flowed seamlessly from one topic to another and it seemed like in no time, two hours had passed! Sheena had a couple of stories that she thought might be nice to share with the congregation and one of those stories is below. It's a Christmas related story that she wrote a few years back for this time of year. Now some may say it's geared toward children, but then we are all young-at-heart this time of year so I'm sure you will enjoy it.

The main character in the story is a camel, by the name of Nuri. Believe it or not, that led Sheena to remember a time when she actually rode a camel while on vacation in Australia! It turns out she was visiting New Zealand and Australia back in 1993 and when the opportunity arose to ride a camel – who knew there were even camels in Australia?? - she “jumped” at the chance! Apparently, it turned out to be quite the ride – not for the faint of heart - but it was all a great experience and Sheena has pictures to prove it!

Here is the “Parable of The Grumpy Camel” by Sheena Findlay and following the story you will see the pictures from Sheena's Australian camel ride 1993 – and no Nuri is not one of the camels!

The Parable of the Grumpy Camel by Sheena Findlay

Nuri, the camel, was in a very bad mood that first Christmas night. Now camels are not by nature known for their sweet temper, in fact, they grumble all the time, and when a camel looks down his haughty nose at people, it's already obvious that there won't likely be a lot of cooperation forthcoming. With camels, when you try to back them up, they balk and refuse to move; when you haul them forward, they stick their feet in and spit, snort and make all sorts of rude noises. When they're up, they don't want to get down, and when they're down... for loading they are determined not to get up! I once went down the Mount of Olives on a camel.... which was a major error of judgment.... this form of transport is not for anyone who is afraid of heights or prone to motion sickness. I could well imagine why Jesus opted for the donkey not the camel on Palm Sunday.

But to get back to Nuri...

He had come a long way with his master, Balthazar, who was of course, one of the wise men. The journey from near modern Baghdad, if tradition is to be believed, would be about 900 miles, and Nuri grumbled the whole way because his feet were sore, they had loaded him up with too much stuff, it seemed as if he had been on the way forever and besides, he and the other camels were beginning to think the wise men hadn't a clue what they were looking for!

The last straw... if you will forgive the phrase... was when they finally reached Bethlehem, very late and very tired. Yet nothing would do but for the travellers to stop off first at the stable door over which the star was seen. Well when Nuri saw that door, he knew at once it was your standard no-go area at least for the camel contingent on this trip. Take a ten foot camel,

with a full load on, a six foot human on top of that and a door that's both vertically and horizontally challenged... and you have a logistical problem that would challenge even our own Stephen Bruneau!!

The maddening thing for Nuri was that he could see the light inside and what looked like a really terrific party going on, but no way of getting in.

Well, I'm sure you can guess what happened next. First, they tried to lead the whole entourage through the door ... fat chance of that in spite of a lot of pushing, shoving and yelling. Then they got Nuri down so Balthazar could get off, and up again to have another go at the doorway... no way even though at one point Nuri got stuck and almost took the door off trying to get back up. There was much arguing from the camel drivers till somebody had the bright idea to unload Nuri completely, and strip him down to one halter – but he was still just too tall for that door. By this time Balthazar and the two other kings had gone in ahead, the camel drivers were ready to strike, and poor Nuri was so mad having come all that way and not be able to see the Christ child, that he was snorting, spitting, chomping his teeth, and snapping at everybody.

Finally, one little fellow timidly said “Well, why don't you get him in on his knees?” And that's just what they did! With a lot of pushing and squeezing, Nuri hunkered his way in, and from right next to the door he could see the Holy Family and everything that was going on. His long journey was all worth while he even stopped complaining!

And the moral of this story is... if we want to see the Christ Child this Christmas Eve, we must let go of all the loads we carry – busyness, tiredness, grumbling, self-pity, pride, anger, fear – and we must come in through that

stable door on our knees to worship the King of Glory. For remember, with God, all things are possible, even getting camels through the eye of a needle – or a stable door!



Camels – Australia



Sheena on a camel – Australia 1993



Camel – Up close

The Rescue of Baby Jesus

So this week we had a guest show up on the front step of the Sanctuary. Baby Jesus somehow made his way to the front steps of St. David's! Now most of you are thinking "What!" But this is a true story! A statue of Baby Jesus was found on the front step of the Sanctuary. Thanks to Kay Scott, Baby Jesus found solace in our church. She brought him in and laid him in the lobby where He dried off and stayed for a few days.

The police were called by Anne Calver to see if someone was missing their Baby Jesus and in turn the police called Monica at the office and they had a somewhat peculiar conversation as to what to do with Baby Jesus. Monica decided to call the local churches to try and locate his home but to no avail. Baby Jesus spent another night, at least he was in a friendly and welcoming environment!

Anne Calver then came up with the idea that there was a Baby Jesus statue taken from a Church in St. John's a couple of years ago and decided to call them. While Jesus has a home in all the Churches we called, this particular statue belonged to Corpus Christi Church!

We found His home!! Father Barrett and another gentleman came by and rescued their statue; all enjoyed a little humour about the whole situation. One gentleman alluded to the fact that Baby Jesus certainly makes his rounds around town!



Baby Jesus Statue

An Archival Moment

Thanks to Pam Bruce for having this picture in one of her many folders full of archival pictures! This week, we have another photo from the Summer Picnic, 1995. It looks like it was a beautiful sunny, warm day. Who do you recognize in the picture?



Summer Picnic 1995

From left to right: Bob and Florence McNeily, Elisabeth Berghuis and Ada Barnes

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: Being a tenacious group, what was their next plan about where to meet?

The answer is: With no one in town willing to go against the fishing admiral/governor and rent space to the Dissenters, Mr. Lang and another man went into the forest cut down some trees with the idea of building a chapel. After the fishing admiral left in October “a chamber belonging to one of the Society sheltered them during the winter”. During that fall they also obtained a lease on land.

This week the question is: What was the major driving force in Newfoundland at the time and what impact did this have on everyone?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: January 6th has meaning for two reasons, what are they?

The answer is: January 6th is known as Epiphany and in Newfoundland and Labrador is also the twelfth night of Christmas and the last day of general merry-making before taking down the decorations and lights and getting back to work.

This week the question is: What surprise visitor did St. David's have this week? Hint: Read the story and take a look at the picture in News from the Pews!

Do you have any ideas for some church trivia? Email or call the church!

Offerings While COVID-19 keeps us from church each Sunday, please consider other ways to keep up your weekly donations. For those of you who are not on PAD, please consider signing up. Simply email the church and we will put you in touch with Ian Bruneau, our Envelope Secretary. He will answer any questions you may have. Alternately, you can donate via e-transfer to stdavidsnfld@gmail.com. Using your bank's comment section, you can specify information like your envelope number and how you would like your money distributed; to Current, Presbyterian Sharing, or any of our outreach programs. You may also donate through Canada Helps. You may also mail your donation, drop it off at the church, or call the church and someone would be pleased to pick it up for you.

How can we help you at this time? Do you need any help getting groceries, having something picked up, or having something dropped off (like this bulletin or the minister's weekly sermons)? Would you just like to have a chat with the minister or your elder? Please call the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

Ideas to keep in touch Do you have any ideas how we can keep in touch with one another or what you'd like to see us do over the next period of time while we're all under orders to stay safely distant from one another? Call and let us know! Please keep in touch!

Web Site We'd like you to visit our web site, which is the place to find past services and any number of interesting things. The Sunday services are found on the web site and the text of the sermon is also available in the comment section. Our web site is **stdavids.nf.ca**

Once there, choose ministries and look for the service you'd like to see or hear. There are 592 services on-line too listen to or see.

How to reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant

Cell phone: 699-3661

Church Office: (709) 722-2382

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – Kay Scott

Bible Study Group – Sheena Findlay

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Board of Managers – Kyle Sampson

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Carmichael

Food For Thought (University and Early Career) – The Rollmanns

Session: the elders are:

Lillian Crawford Jim Steele Ken Templeton

Sue Templeton Janet Calver Kathy McKay

Penny Gillies Steve Bruneau Ian Bruneau

Aubrey Bonnell Eleanor Bonnell Jenny Griffioen

Jennifer Waterman Ed Vanderkloet Tanya Shalaby

Board of Managers: the members of the Board are:

Kyle Sampson Ken Templeton Ed Vanderkloet

Tanya Shalaby Steve Bruneau Allison Crawford

Andrea Crosbie Andem Effeiong Don McKay

Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau